

#### 4.2.6.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

##### No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, DOE would continue the existing and planned missions at SRS. This includes continued storage of Pu material in F-Area in stabilized form pursuant to DNFSB Recommendation 94-1. Any impacts to cultural or paleontological resources from these missions would be independent of the proposed action and would be addressed through separate NHPA, *American Indian Religious Freedom Act*, and *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* regulatory compliance procedures. An extensive archaeological survey program began at SRS in 1974 and includes numerous field studies. A Programmatic Agreement was signed by the DOE Savannah River Operations Office, the South Carolina SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 1990 with the purpose of ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to inventory, evaluate, protect and enhance sites on SRS. In addition, there is an *Archaeological Resource Management Plan* in place at SRS.

##### Upgrade Alternative

###### ***Preferred Alternative: Upgrade With Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Non-Pit Plutonium Subalternative***

###### *Modify Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility for Continued Plutonium Storage*

This option involves additions to a new facility on previously disturbed land located north of the 235-F Building and east of the 247-F Building in F-Area to accommodate SRS non-pit Pu and RFETS non-pit Pu material. Portions of the F-Area have been surveyed and contain sites potentially eligible for the NRHP. However, the areas under consideration are disturbed and the potential for cultural resources is extremely low. Some paleontological remains may occur on this acreage, but impacts would be considered negligible because the fossil assemblages known to occur at SRS are of low research value. During operation, no additional ground disturbance is expected, so there would be no additional impact to prehistoric, historic, or paleontological sites.

Some Native American resources may be affected by the proposed action. Resources such as prehistoric sites, cemeteries, and traditional plants could be affected by construction. Facility operation could result in reduced access to traditional use areas or sacred space. Visual or auditory intrusions to the areas may also result from the proposed option. These resources would be identified through consultation with the potentially affected tribes.

[Text deleted.]

###### ***Upgrade With All or Some Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Plutonium and Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Subalternative***

###### *Modify Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility for Continued Plutonium Storage*

Impacts for the addition of All or Some RFETS Pu and LANL Pu would be similar to the Upgrade With RFETS Non-Pit Pu Subalternative because no additional land would be disturbed.

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## **Consolidation Alternative**

### *Construct New Plutonium Storage Facility*

This alternative involves the construction of a new facility on land east of the Z-Area. The total amount of land to be disturbed during construction is 58.5 ha (144 acres). The total operational land requirement is 56 ha (138 acres). A reduced-access buffer zone would exist around the facility. This acreage may contain some prehistoric and historic resources. Surveys would be conducted prior to construction. Some paleontological remains may occur on this acreage, but impacts would be considered negligible because the fossil assemblages known to occur at SRS are of low research value. During operation, no additional ground disturbance is expected, so there would be no additional impact to prehistoric, historic, or paleontological sites. Native American resources may be identified in the area. Potential impacts to these resources are also discussed under the Upgrade Alternative.

## **Collocation Alternative**

### *Construct New Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium Storage Facilities*

Under this alternative, a new facility would be constructed east of the Z-Area to accommodate all Pu and HEU within the scope of this PEIS. Land disturbed during construction would be 89.5 ha (221 acres). The operational land disturbance would be 87 ha (215 acres), and the facilities would be located in the same place as the previously discussed new Pu storage facility. A reduced-access buffer zone would exist around the facility. Effects to cultural and paleontological resources would be similar to those discussed under the Consolidation Alternative.

## **Subalternative Not Including Strategic Reserve and Weapons Research and Development Materials**

Under this subalternative, facility and other resource requirements will be almost the same as the No Action Alternative, the Upgrade Alternative, the Consolidation Alternative, and the Collocation Alternative. Therefore, impacts to cultural and paleontological resources would be equal to those previously discussed. [Text deleted.]

## **Phaseout**

Under this activity, all SRS Pu material would be moved out of F-Area to the consolidation or collocation sites or to disposition. No acreage is expected to be disturbed during phaseout, so impacts to archaeological and paleontological resources are not anticipated. It is possible, however, that some of the buildings involved in phaseout would be NRHP-eligible, because their original construction and function may be associated with the Cold War Era.